

Overseas News

Rhodesian black tipped to head university

from Fred Cleary

SALISBURY

The birth of the new state of Zimbabwe in February will coincide with the appointment of a new principal—probably an African—to the University of Rhodesia.

Current favourite is Professor Gordon Chavundupak, 48, a former leading figure in Bishop Abbot Muzorewa's United African National Council Party but who turned his back on politics. A recently created professor of sociology, the quietly spoken moderate would be a popular choice inside and outside the campus.

Professor Robert Craig, 62, who has held the post for the past decade is retiring voluntarily to his native Fife where he hopes to work as a minister of the Church of Scotland. Although he never regarded himself as more than an amateur administrator Craig stepped into the breach at a critical stage when this comparatively new university was experiencing deep political turmoil.

African nationalism was pounding at the very foundations of the white supremacist governmental and social

society while Mr Terence Miller, the second principal, had brought upon himself the wrath of large sections of the white community for his liberal and outspoken views.

After two years Mr Miller resigned and Professor Craig, an avuncular professor of theology who was appointed in December 1969.

After several nasty riots the political temperature cooled by mid 1973 and the students went back to work with only the occasional low-key outburst and demonstration. Craig does not claim that race relations on the campus itself are perfect even today.

There would be a high degree of tolerance or pragmatic co-existence rather than non-racism, he said. "The place has held together because everyone, and students, black and white, realized they would sink or swim together."

The university has approximately two thousand students—nearly one thousand are black, 500 white and the balance drawn from other races. Military call-up has reduced the year's intake slightly.

In the early years most African students were attracted to the social sciences but in recent times there has been a shift to disciplines like teaching, engineering, accountancy, medicine, agriculture, pharmacy

and commerce and law. A faculty of veterinary medicine is planned—a particular pet project of Professor Craig who said he was fully aware of the vital role the beef industry had and would be playing in the state's economic future.

"The trend of studies is in the right direction," he said. "I am especially pleased at the interest shown by black students in agriculture. We have about one hundred students, including eight or ten women, working for their BSc Agric. This is remarkable when one considers that a few years ago we only had a handful of white agricultural students here. Yes, I believe our African people are beginning to realize that this is primarily an agricultural country and they are seeing what you might call the green light."

Despite the difficulties including the deportation of politically undesirable staff by the Smith government, emigration and the war, the University of Rhodesia has generally managed to maintain staff recruiting at a satisfactory level.

At present there are 250 academic teachers of which approximately 20 per cent are African. During the past 14 months 17 chairs, including the first black librarian, have been appointed and there are currently

between thirty and forty vacancies. Professor Craig boasts that the overall standard of education in the university's 23-year history has always been remarkably high.

Professor Craig did not comment on the severe problem the country has had in keeping its well qualified medical students in the country. Too many leave for overseas, some to specialise but either for political and financial reasons.

Although the country was in the political wilderness for the past 14 years the University of Rhodesia has always been well supported by the international academic fraternity, especially the Association of Commonwealth Universities based in London.

The University of Rhodesia has continued its full membership and through it has maintained vital channels when it came to staff recruiting. The British government has also never wavered in its support, financial and otherwise, in spite of UDI. Money has not come directly but mainly through the World University Service.

With political barriers now dismantled and economic sanctions a thing of the past the university, like the rest of the country, is looking forward in eager anticipation to a major upswing in development.

Funding plans for academics meet hostility

from Lionel Cohen

AMSTERDAM

Long-term changes in research financing recently announced by the Dutch government have met with a generally hostile reception from the universities.

In a series of articles just published leading Dutch academics have variously criticized the government's plan as an attack on research freedom and a restriction on university autonomy, while the many smaller difficulties which may add to research administration have been commented on as pushing together of many and problems into one big problem for all concerned.

Yet at first sight the government's new plan seems reasonable enough in the face of a continuing research budget deficit. The primary objective is to ensure a clearer public accountability in terms of the public money spent. According to the education minister, Dr Pais, it also makes sense to draw up nationwide criteria for research priorities, so that the national effort is not duplicated and is socially valuable.

However, instead of merely adopting existing systems of research financing to meet the requirements, the government has proposed—and has already begun to implement—a transfer of funds away from the general state budget for university personnel and into the budget of the country's national research organization—roughly the Dutch equivalent of the British UGC.

The effect of this is to ensure each year a gradual expansion in the proportion of research based on short-term "project-funding" which meets approved government criteria, while at the same time reducing the proportion of "fixed" university research which is relatively free of government interference. The government's intention is to double, in five years, the level of funding of short-term research over a period ending in 1990 and to finance this entirely by the curbing of permanent staff salaries by replacing these posts as they holders leave or retire.

For the universities this means not only a loss of their "core" research staff, but also a loss of their research capacity. The government plans to go even further, since it is also proposing that additional criteria will be built into the scheme to select the kind of research staff that the universities employ for such work. For example, preference will be given to younger researchers, to graduate or employees of universities and to those who are particularly active in research.

In spite of the fact that in some universities there is already a larger proportion of women research staff than there are men graduates.

Student union move to heal the breach

from Guy Neave

PARIS

Despite hesitations, moves are afoot to bring together the major left-wing organizations in the French student movement. If successful, the discussions will bring to an end a decade of harrowing strife which began in the aftermath of May 1968.

The left of the student movement in France is divided into three main groups. The first, the Union Nationale des Etudiants de France (UNEF), is closely followed by the French Communist Party line. Formed in 1965 as a result of a breakaway by the Communist members of the national union of students, it is perhaps the best organized, notional

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Over the past few weeks, UNEF has been proposing that all three organizations should join together to form a single, concerted programme. The question still remains, however, what the meeting to discuss this will take place. If UNEF, the French Communist Party and the other two groups would prefer to delay matters until the start of the coming academic year in September 1980.

In part, these hesitations are due to the serious position of the MAF, threatened by a breakaway group whose members are now in this, while UNEF, the French Communist Party and the other two groups would prefer to delay matters until the start of the coming academic year in September 1980.

A similar battle appears to be taking place inside the Communist Party, where the leadership is divided into two main groups, one representing the traditional Communist line, and the other a more radical group, which is more active in all three areas.

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Irish fears of harsh budgets overshadow student congress

from Paul McGill

DUBLIN

Strong opposition to education cuts already decided for Northern Ireland and the Republic, in the Republic, has overshadowed the annual congress of the Union of Students in Ireland, which was held in Wexford.

The union represents 70,000 members in both parts of Ireland. About a third are in the North, where they share joint membership with the British National Union of Students. The new USI president is Queen's University Belfast graduate, Gerry Grainger who stressed the need for unity in the student movement.

It will be difficult to achieve any meaningful success in the 22nd annual congress, which is being held for the third day together with the annual conference of the British National Union of Students. The question of dissent, procedural wrangling over many contentious motions held up progress and the elections for the three full-time officerships were the closest fought for years.

The congress itself ended in disorder with a walkout by the majority

of delegates. It took place because of procedural rows over the selection of an Irish representative for the International Union of Students which has its headquarters in Prague.

Dissent apart, much solid work was done with motions passed opposing education cuts in the North and South. The main fear for the delegates from the Republic concerns the forthcoming Budget which the new Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Mr Charles Haughey says will be one of the most difficult.

The congress also adopted a policy document on higher education in the 1980s.

The main public interest in the congress was not about education at all but about the union's attitude toward abortions, which are illegal in the Republic. The number of women going from the Republic to England for the procedure is expected to be around 3,000 and at its last annual congress USI called for the decriminalization of abortion. This led to strong criticism of the union, and moves got underway to reverse the stand at this year's congress. They did not entirely succeed. The delegates affirmed the right to life from the moment of conception but they fell short of declaring abortion murder or a crime as some want them to do.



Mc Gerry Grainger

French strike a blow for junior research recruitment

Two decades setting out conditions of promotion and recruitment to research posts are to be published in the near future by the French government.

The decree involving the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), some as a sharp blow to the "patronage" system which has long governed the relationship between junior researchers and their superiors.

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Charlotte Barry profiles John Hughes, new head of the famous adult residential college

John Hughes and, right, Ruskin's new Headington campus

The pause that refreshed Ruskin's principal

While up at Oxford I joined the Labour Club and other clubs offering the chance to discuss social problems and I met a whole host of Ruskin students who enormously impressed me," he says.

For the next seven years Mr Hughes taught in the extra-mural departments of Hull and Sheffield universities. As an adult tutor he struggled to teach workers whose lives were circumscribed by continuous shift systems, and he was driven to holding extra classes in his own home in order to catch them coming off as well as going on shifts.

"It is always difficult for someone to succeed from the inside," he says straightforwardly. "It meant I was able to stand back from Ruskin to a certain extent."

During his two years with the Price Commission John Hughes headed and completed 25 investigations into nationalized industries and major companies, spanning an average of three months on each one. At the same time he continued to teach economics and industrial relations at Ruskin.

"I worked very hard," he remembers. "It was absolutely fascinating because it was the first time I had been working with really powerful research resources and constraint of time."

This absorbing interest in the work at hand is typical of him. A stocky man in his early 50s, with crisp grey hair, a strong chin and short, stubby beard, he carries an air of suppressed energy and enthusiasm which is highly infectious.

Known for a wide range of public activities, he has been a member of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, has acted as an adviser to the TUC and the Labour Party and has written a number of Fabian pamphlets. He is also a governor of the London Business School, which embarrasses him slightly.

He has been involved in teaching adults ever since leaving Oxford, where he took a degree in PPE in 1950. Ironically, he has decided to enter this particular field of education was made when, as a working class youth on a state scholarship, he came across students from Ruskin.

felt we had to set up an Independent diploma without the Oxford University catch."

This result was the new course in labour studies which quickly became the most popular in the college. For the first time it allowed students to develop the framework of study that suited them best, as they linked theory with practice.

In an attempt to break a little from the tutorial system students were given the chance to write an independent thesis, linked to an oral test. Continuous assessment and 48-hour exercises also enabled them to escape from the traditional battery of exams.

The college also introduced its own diploma in social studies which now runs alongside similar programmes in development studies, history, literature and applied social studies.

"I think we have managed to achieve a choice of courses that are much better suited to adult students, and an examining process which is more difficult but more realistic and more helpful," Mr Hughes says. "It has resulted in a disciplined but much more creative educational process."

During this period in the early 1960s, the college embarked on a building programme. A first year centre was developed in a picturesque setting on the outskirts of size to the present 180 full-time students.

During the recruitment period, Ruskin looks for students who have not gone through normal educational processes. Selection is by essay and interview. Although most students are aged between 25 and 45, there is no longer a formal upper age limit and Mr Hughes is keen to admit more women provided they can persuade them to apply.

He is more sensitive to the fact that more women want to move from family involvement into paid employment or further education. He has even proposed a system of educational credits whereby women could build up credits in the years spent rearing children which could be cashed in (in terms of opportunities) for educational development.

At the moment, fewer than a quarter of the students who apply are admitted to Ruskin every year and female, Mr Hughes always has sympathy applications from local women who want to carry on living at home, but they are often beset with domestic problems.

Ideally, he would like to build more married quarters and provide purpose-built accommodation for single parents. "The whole argument is that you want people as far as possible to have all the support services and facilities so they can concentrate on their studies," he says.

Some 20 per cent of Ruskin students are from overseas, and their countries of origin strongly reflect Commonwealth ties, as Ruskin has been instrumental in training a number of African national and trade union leaders. Over the years there has also been a trickle of immigrant students, and the college maintains its traditional ties with the Labour movement and many students are funded by trade unions and similar bodies as well as the DES. Mr Hughes is full of praise for the trade union movement as a powerful educational resource which develops confidence and gives people the administrative ability to control their own destiny.

"A lot of people are active trade unionists who would never think of applying to higher education, but they think of scholarship at Ruskin as something which is their 'right of reference'," he says.

Having completed their diplomas, most students go on to university. Many aspire to become adult educators. Not surprisingly, few return to their old jobs. In spite of teaching his students to use independent, rational judgment, Mr Hughes still fears that Ruskin might be seen as a small enclave in another world, or even a haven for the uncommitted. Therefore, as principal he is carrying on the programme of change, experiment and development which he helped engineer over the past 15 years in an attempt to help the

college turn outward and effectively create another Ruskin.

The initiative takes the form of the Trade Union Research Unit, of which he is director, and which acts as a catalyst to encourage the development of research resources in the 50 affiliated trade unions; the history workshop which attempts to take an alternative view of the subject; and the Trade Union International Research and Education Group (TUIREG) which looks at the problems of Third World development.

At the same time they are branching out in original research work, such as looking at collective bargaining in industry, and embarking on an analysis of the applied social studies diploma.

This link of resources and outside initiative helps to give those at Ruskin a sense of playing a wider social role which in turn encourages more experiment and creativity. "That sense I hope we are gaining out of which looks like a real world of adult education, not one that is just shaping people in the university mould."

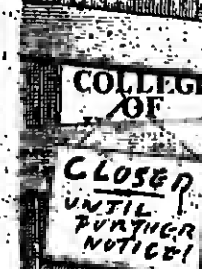
Coupled with this is his very real concern that universities exist only for a highly qualified elite of 18-21-year-olds and fail to help people into a more democratic and participatory system because their teachers are isolated from the pressures in society.

He has to find some way of handling what is a new, light urbanised society with grave problems of adjustment," he says. "What worries me is the extent to which the school system and the university system are all closed in on this, and that we don't want Ruskin to close in on itself."

"I think I come back to the feeling that Ruskin has to try and be a centre of excellence and in an important sense a centre of protest against the university. We have to express academic and professional about the conditions of people here and elsewhere. It's a matter of transferring that into methods of work."

Official designation desirable but not really essential

John O'Leary finds Derby Lonsdale College doing well



By no means every college which suffered heavy cuts in teacher training places during 1977 is now struggling for survival on the way to closing. Living proof is available at Derby Lonsdale College, where a successful merger and sensible academic planning have overcome the difficulties which the loss of half its initial teacher training places might have been expected to bring.

Indeed, so well has the new college coped that it is one of the institutions favoured by directors if more polytechnics are to be designed. Under the leadership of Dr Jonathan Day, a former and Dr Jonathan Day, a former and Dr Jonathan Day, a former

entrenched presence" on the part of the Church, appears to have settled both sides. While the crucifix on the wall of Dr May's office is the only visible sign of Christian influence, tradition have been maintained and theology has gained in popularity since the 1960s were loosened.

Closure was never an option because of the advanced state of merger negotiations but the Bishop of Lonsdale College might have been hard pressed on its own. Founded in 1851, it had expanded to the point where it had 900 students and planned to go up to 1,000. However, the review of teacher education in 1977 pruned the 1981 target figure to a mere 450 and the present annual intake of teacher education students is not far above 400, with a difficult year ahead.

The vacant places on the former Bishop Lonsdale site have been filled by a fairly conventional programme of arts-based diversified degree courses and professional qualifications. Teacher education staff have been redeployed on the combined sign of Derby and Nottingham University approved, and on a range of courses conducted at the college and elsewhere, which utilize the educational experience of the staff.

Notable successes in efforts to diversify have been achieved in social work training and language courses, but problems remain for the moment both with the new combined Studies degree and the revamped teacher education provision. After a satisfactory initial recruitment in 1977 pruned the 1981 target figure to a mere 450 and the present annual intake of teacher education students is not far above 400, with a difficult year ahead.

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Neither charge could be levelled at Derby, where conscious efforts are made to integrate the work of the various parts of the college and where sub-degree courses are numerous and highly regarded. Lengthy planning has gone into the formulation of new courses under the aegis of the Technician Education and Business Education Councils, which epitomize the concern to serve the local community.

The Council for National Academic Awards has approved a new BSc in biology and a Masters degree in business and management, which is to be administered by the regional management centre and taught jointly with Trent and Loughborough polytechnics. Biology is already on offer at degree level, together with geology and geography in the surprisingly successful Earth and Life Studies BSc.

With a complimentary CNAA report under his belt and a relationship with the local education authority that would be the envy of some directors, everything would seem to be set for Dr May and his staff. No one, though, is the biggest corporation in Europe without a university or a polytechnic, and was pleased but not surprised to find the college's name on the polytechnic directors' list. As far as he is concerned, Derby Lonsdale is a polytechnic in all but name. Official designation would be welcome but not essential.

He is professor of international history at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Postgraduates are getting a raw deal out of solitary study, argues A S Byatt

The author is a lecturer in the Department of English at University College, London.

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BOOKS

Elites

The City and the Court, 1603-1643
by Robert Ashton
Cambridge University Press, £10.50
ISBN 0 521 22419 5

Seventeenth-century London has had magnificent attractions for economic historians. Unwin, Tawney and Fisher—no names but three—all made major contributions to the exploration of this facet of the history of the capital. Similarly, London's politics in this period have exercised a continuing fascination since the days of Clarendon and Hobbes. Professor Ashton's is the latest addition to the growing literature on this important subject, and the fact that he is here combining the approaches of both economic and political historians is calculated to do full justice to both the municipal and the commercial aspects of the capital's development and to show the noticeably changing interplay between the city (in its two aspects), Parliament, and the court. The result of his investigations is a scholarly, valuable and fascinating book which no historian of this period will be able to ignore.

The early chapters of the book penetrate the complexities and peculiarities of London's municipal and commercial organization and reveal the overlapping elites which dominated city government and the world of big business. Ashton's researches into the composition of the municipal and business leadership demonstrate unmistakably "the intermeshing of the personnel of the mercantile and business elites, and the intimate concern of a significant number of them with government concessions of one sort or another".

This concessionary, in fact, provides Ashton with the centre of interest and he argues convincingly that it was the split in their ranks in the later 1620s which was the principal determinant of London's political stance down to the years 1641-42. What facilitated this split, Ashton contends, was the monopoly and Tenney and Poulton's disputes of the 1620s, the outcome of which was to isolate those groups of concessionaires—monopolists and Customs Farmers—from the rest.

No longer, as in the period before 1624, were almost all concessionaires lumped together for indiscriminate condemnation. A distinction had come to be made between those privileges from which a relatively large number of people benefited... and the sort of privilege... where a very few men held the rest of the community at ransom. It was a distinction which was of inestimable importance in securing a very wide basis of influential support for the parliamentary cause from the business interests of the City of London.

Ashton's interpretation of the political process in the 1620s and 1630s—and the effects which evidence to support it—differs fundamentally from that advanced 15 years ago in Valeria Pearl's *London and the Outbreak of the Puritan Revolution*. It is, like Pearl's, a revisionist view, but unlike hers, Ashton argues that a municipal revolution was necessary in 1641-42 if the City was to be secured for the parliamentary cause. Unlike Pearl, however, Ashton insists that the royalist of the bulk of the London aldermen at the beginning of 1642 needs to be explained by reference to the events of 1640-42, rather than in terms of their unchanged and steadfast adherence to royal policies from the beginning, unaffected by the 11 years of tyrannical oligarchy and so many other pillars of society in the 1630s.

It was the unfettered expression of popular religious and social radicalism in London in the early 1640s which led to the reversion of the municipal government to a more moderate and pragmatic stance. Seen from this angle, London's municipal revolution is not so much a counter-revolution within the city government.

R. C. Richardson

R. C. Richardson is Lecturer in the School of History at King Alfred's College of Higher Education, Winchester.



A pre-Viking cross at Eton in Cumbria, from Viking Age Sculpture by Richard M. Bailey. Edited by Collins on February 11 at £10.95.

The fleet system

Spanish Politics and Imperial Trade 1700-1789

by Geoffrey J. Walker
Macmillan, £15.00
ISBN 0 333 26235 2

In its day Spain was the centre of the biggest empire in the world and could, it seemed, have made itself rich from the fabulous proceeds of its trade with the New World. Scholars such as Haring and Chaurin have concentrated on what happened in this trade during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but have largely ignored the eighteenth. Dr Walker's most welcome study is the first modern work of scholarship to look at the later history of the commercial relations between Spain and the American empire.

He has drawn principally on materials in Seville and Simoesa, and on the American side has looked at documentation in Lima. The reader should be warned that the bulk of the work is about the half-century 1700-1750, and that the remainder of the period given in the title is touched on in only six pages at the very end of the book.

The first part of Dr Walker's account is a narrative of the regulated trade plying between Spain and the Indies during the War of Succession. The second part deals with attempts by England to squeeze some profit from its dealings (guaranteed at the Peace of Utrecht) with the sending of annual ship loads with goods to the Portuguese trade fair. The privilege was confirmed in 1716, and for the next five years Spain made concerted efforts to protect its commerce against the advances enjoyed by the English. Arguing against the common view that the annual ship was of minor importance since England already controlled much of the American market, Dr Walker says that, on the contrary, it was "of supreme importance because it took a heavy blow from within at the Indies trade from Cadiz".

The last section of the book deals mainly with English efforts to reform the commercial system in the 1720s and 1730s. There was a growing conviction at this time that the annual ship was a hindrance to the growth of the Indies trade.

Violence and Reform in American History
by Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones
Croom Helm, £4.50
ISBN 0 331 05613 9

It has long been the contention that the labour history of the United States has been more bloody and violent than that of any other industrial nation. Such a view is not only amply illustrated by the examination of a wide range of industries, groups of workers, geographical regions and periods of American history. For the most part, it seemed, this labour violence extracted few gains for its practitioners and posed no serious threat to the stability of the republic by stimulating the development of an effective revolutionary tradition. Instead, it provided employers with an excuse for increasing their own (and more extensive) use of force, thus improving the collective hand of those who had already been dealt the best cards.

In his interesting and strongly argued book, Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones takes issue with some features of the accepted view. While acknowledging the growth of industrial violence from the 1870s to the 1940s, he maintains that the phenomenon was exaggerated during the Progressive era, not least by liberals seeking to dramatize the need for their own reform proposals; a tactic which, it is claimed, misfired drastically in the elitist atmosphere created by revolution in Russia and the First World War, just as a similar manipulation of violence for political purposes failed in the 1930s.

The author also emphasizes that the industrial violence of the Pre-

Roots of violence

gressive years—his main focus—was insignificant compared with other forms of crime, and that it "was no more problematic in the United States than in other countries", an assertion supported by comparing American statistics on strike mortality with figures from France and Wales. Since these figures sustain a controversial point, one would have liked to see them extended both as to time and countries.

A number of issues are examined to explain the Progressive preoccupation with conflict and to illustrate the gradually less partisan governmental response. The activities of the Western Federation of Miners and the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ironworkers aroused particular interest, because of the alleged terrorist conspiracy among the leaders of the former and the resort to dynamiting by the latter. Union leaders were often ambivalent about violence, denying the innate lawlessness of labour and even recognizing the threat posed by violence to their movement as a whole, but unwilling to renounce the use of a weapon which, they contended, employer injustice drove them to adopt, and certainly reluctant to discipline their unruly members. This may have laid them open to the charge of hypocrisy, as Jeffreys-Jones suggests, but they had a point. In the frequent absence of adequate police forces, the detective agencies whose work he detailed here developed an extensive trade in armed guards, strikebreakers and labour spies. And such organizations, far from commercial reasons, exaggerated the need for their services and deliberately prolonged the disputes they were hired to solve, while journalists were pleased to publicize the salient news of conflict.

One of the sub-themes of the book is racial violence, directed by blacks against whites, and the author finds that there was "little communication or interchange of personnel" between the labour and black protest movements; although each highlighted "strengths and weaknesses". In the United States law enforcement systems with different frequency aroused different reactions in its enforcement agents. Groups seen to be fair commentators. Whites and non-whites activists have cooperated with difficulty, resenting their grievances by those in power. But it is also argued here that black and white reformers are during the 1960s, by playing on the divisions, challenged the power faith in the feasibility of a radical social change.

While the point about the danger of linking violence and reform is valid one, the author's contention would have been strengthened had he further considered the racial difficulties facing both radical and reformist spokesmen for persons minorities in American society, and elaborated the wider causes for political reaction following periods of change which he has studied.

It would likewise have been helpful to assess why some form of violence have been more acceptable and successful in that society than others.

Christine Bolt

Christine Bolt is senior lecturer in history at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

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BOOKS

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by Benjamin Ward
Macmillan, £15.00
ISBN 0 333 27215 3

Any author who uses on page four, as this one does, the expression "this little book" and then proceeds to spread himself over some 400 large and closely-printed pages of text is clearly a man of Homeric proportions: the sort of man who, in another art form, would have felt constrained by canons and less than 40 feet square and would have looked on the collings of Sistine Chapel as trivia to while away the odd rainy afternoon. Or, alternatively, one with a markedly morose sense of humour; and it is the most revealing fact about this book that the time after time one finds almost irresistible the suspicion that the whole thing is one gigantic send-up.

The latter sensation is much strengthened by the author's weird habit of accreting the wrong sex for no apparent reason. On page 107, for example, occurs the following: "Karl Marx has been dead for 90 years" in fact when this book was published Marx had been dead for 96 years, but let that pass. This means, he goes on, that "you can look through all his massive collection of writings without finding a single fact about life in the twentieth century". Well, once could be a mistake; but no—there are serious inadequacies in her works and yet among the contributions is her emphasis on changing labour productivity or the forces of production, as he called it. Is this some sort of joke? Apparently the author thinks so because it recurs so often; on page 271 we have, "providing a firm specification as to what is radical to sustain her in his struggle with essentially all materials" closely followed by (on page 289) "Marxism represents one such extreme. She argues that..."

Yet the arguments developed are too long-sustained—not to say prolix—and the erudition brought to bear too obvious for the whole thing to be one enormous long-pull. The objective, as stated by the author, is to show that three quite different, indeed conflicting, views of the contemporary economic world can be set out with equal cogency and thus to demonstrate that the subject of economics is not only "thoroughly permeated with ideology" but also, he hopes, striking and distinctive in being capable

of accommodating these widely differing viewpoints within its general structure. In so far as it is permissible to identify the author's subject-matter with economics—of which more a little later—these three different viewpoints may be very broadly labelled the Keynesian ("liberal"), the Marxist ("radical") and Chicago ("conservative").

It is certainly a monumental piece of work, demonstrating a wide and deep knowledge of the literature, both venerable and contemporary, before which most of us must stand awestruck and envious. The author presents each "viewpoint" in turn with energy as well as erudition, appends to it variations or special applications and a critical appraisal systematically demonstrated to be well below the totally destructive. It is all a kind of intellectual Mike Yarwood show in which each mimicked politician makes a speech marginally better than the last, until the author's own "presentations" of these optimal economic world views so persuasively that the reader will find himself fully convinced by each—until he comes to the next.

Well, in one case it didn't work out quite like that, and for two reasons. The first is perhaps inherent in so enormously difficult an undertaking as that of one man presenting three fundamentally different ideologies with equal conviction: one ends, inevitably, not with characterization but caricature. One simply cannot assert three conflicting statements about the same reality, test them against valid empirical reality and establish which is the more predictive power, neither can one draw conflicting inferences from the same hypotheses without either errors of logic or shifts of assumption. One retreats merely into generalizations of varying degrees of airiness in which the author more usually indulges. The second reason is that implicit value judgments are concealed from the weary eye by sufficiently purple prose. Thus the statement of the liberal view ends with a passage beginning:

But we know something else, too. We know that in the world today Americans are the denizens of affluence capitalism, are the world's true revolutionaries. We are the ones who pioneered that new social entity, affluent capitalism, in which first basic goods and services and then substantial discretionary income was made available to the overwhelming majority of the citizens...

The Chinese model

Aspects of Development and Underdevelopment
by Jean Robinson
Cambridge University Press, £7.95
and £2.50
ISBN 0 521 22637 6 and 29589 0

Unfortunately this short book lives up to its title. It is not a survey or a systematic analysis of economic development, but a collection of loosely related essays, judged by its content, its author's knowledge of this world is sketchy and largely from economic journalism and determinants prepared for those not centrally interested in the international development agencies.

Professor Robinson accepts the methodology of the 1970s propounded by those agencies, that economic growth in the developing countries has bypassed the masses of the people, and therefore a frontal attack on poverty, as unemployment is now required, as a prerequisite for the chances of success of this new strategy—understanding that the world as a best where agriculture is collectivized, industry is nationalized, and the forces of production and distribution are controlled by the outside world.

An excellent chapter on "misleading lights"—dealing the tendencies of people to be exploited by producers to produce what people are not interested in, and to be exploited by consumers to consume what they are not interested in.

On agriculture Professor Robinson expounds with reference mainly to India the shortcomings not only of tenancy and foreign enterprise but also of peasant cultivation and the modernization of its techniques, and concludes that "only in China has a system been evolved which permits the cultivators to benefit themselves while supplying the needs of the economy". A chapter on the trade in primary commodities includes the rather routine and overplayed theme of export instability and discussion of stabilization schemes. In an oblique reference to the terms of international trade it is conceded that the latter theory of value is not much help in this context. One notices a failure to acknowledge that mining in developing countries is now usually nationalized, or at least in part, and the fact—for one so much concerned with the exploitation of labour—of mentioning the Ghanaian Cocoa Marketing Board only in order to point its bargaining weakness relatively to the power of the international corporations who are the only buyers.

Under the heading of aid and loans the argument also runs on familiar lines: somehow, despite its concessional terms, aid from developed countries will remain a "one-way street" and will not lead to a return on their frugality. It is followed by a relatively lengthy (though necessarily much condensed) history of classical economics which, because it is a failure not so much because the author set out to be simultaneously three economists but rather because he set out to be three Wao Navi.

Douglas Rimmer

Edward Nevins is professor of economics at University College, Swansea.

Douglas Rimmer is deputy director of Birmingham University Centre for Development Studies.

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Trade

Trade Amongst Growing Economies
by Ian Steedman
Cambridge University Press, £9.50
ISBN 0 521 22671 6

It is impossible to understand differences in the economic performance of countries without reference to their trade sector. Exports are the major component of autonomous demand to which other components of demand adjust, and which must also pay for imports if income is not to fall. Alfred Marshall wrote a century ago that "the causes which determine the economic progress of nations belong to the study of international trade." There are many theories of trade which attempt to explain the basis of trade and the pattern of specialization but none by itself is satisfactory. The field is ripe for relevant and imaginative innovation.

Professor Steedman argues that a useful theory of trade must focus on its major features, which he highlights as: trade growing faster than output; trade in manufactures growing faster than in primary commodities; the increasing importance of trade in capital goods, and the increasing share of already industrialized countries in manufacturing trade.

He launches his own theory from an attack on the familiar inadequacies of the Heckscher-Ohlin theory, to particularise the assumption in its basic form that no capital goods are produced or traded. I fear, however, that his contribution will be neglected by all but the specialists for the reason that one set of simplifying assumptions has been replaced by another with no major additional insights. Moreover, while the book is extremely clear and well-written, the technical sophistication will put it beyond the reach of most economists.

The explicit and implicit assumptions of the basic model, which are particularly serious for an understanding of the trade performance of different countries and the distribution of gains from trade, are that the production of all commodities is subject to constant returns to scale; that there is no technical progress or product innovation; trade is always balanced; investment and saving are always equal ex ante, and traders are price takers. The analysis is based on the method of long period equilibrium and comparative statics. The basic model consists of one consumer good and two capital goods, with no choice of technique, on to which trade is then grafted to answer such questions as: under what conditions will trade take place? What determines the pattern of specialization? Are the gains from trade always positive?

International prices different from domestic prices will induce capitalists to specialize and trade. The pattern of specialization depends on the set of international prices, the exogenously given rate of profit or real wage (necessary to close the system) and the technical conditions of production. Free trade specialization can yield positive or negative gains.

Within this framework Steedman also examines the effects of tariff and non-tariff policies on the wage-profit and consumption-growth frontiers. This model is then extended to allow for the existence of a choice of production methods, many commodities and non-traded goods. Finally the analysis is extended to two countries to consider whether there exists a set of international prices such that the pattern of production and trade is freely chosen by the capitalists of the two countries will be mutually consistent with one another and with the maintenance of steady growth equilibrium. Steedman's elegant modelling is undoubtedly technically tour de force, but I wonder about the relevance. Despite the hopes raised at the beginning of the book, the theory does not answer the most basic and interesting question of all: why the entire sector of some countries is so much more dynamic than others. It is technical analysis of trade, pioneered by Keynes and Porter, that came closest to providing answers to the questions that Steedman says should be the focus of a useful theory of trade.

A. P. Thirlwall

A. P. Thirlwall is professor of applied economics at the University of Kent.

BOOKS**Keynes and after**

Monetarists and Keynesians: their contribution to monetary theory
by Brian Morgan
Macmillan, £6.95 and £3.50
ISBN 0 333 22508 2 and 14459 7

What was achieved by the Keynesian revolution? We now know that advice from academic economists to the early 1930s was almost unanimously in favour of fiscal expansion, that American reaction was well under way before Keynes, and that postwar fiscal policies could very well have been destabilizing. We also know that once we had escaped from the depths of the depression Keynes was most reluctant to advocate further reduction and that *How to Pay for the War* is a better guide than the *General Theory* to Keynesian inflation policy. With persistent inflation it was not entirely clear what "Keynesian" policy was, nor, to the extent that it was opposed, whether it did any good.

Brian Morgan's book is concerned with theory rather than policy and causes one to reflect on what has been achieved on that front. Although this book is called *Monetarists and Keynesians* the monetarists tend to appear only in the interstices and the opus is essentially about Keynes and the reassessment of his ideas. It is a good account and will be of interest to second and third-year students. I suspect it is too technical for the general public and slightly too easy for most economists. The theoretical legacy of Keynes is a mess; a brilliant mess, but nevertheless a mess.

Morgan's prescription for getting

us out of the mess is the familiar of rebuilding the microfoundations of macroeconomics with emphasis on disequilibrium, uncertainty and expectations. Given his book, it is slightly surprising that Morgan does not discuss the contributions of Clower and Loftholm in a more detail. This new approach is exciting and full promise but it has not yet helped to policy makers to the future. Against this exacting reconstruction the monetarist puts is something of a *deus ex machina*. Keynes's opponent, Pigou, wanted to treat the economy as a special case, leaving the otherwise intact. Postwar Keynesians have more or less accepted that crude Keynesian policy is appropriate only to the special case to what it was at, say, the end of the 1940s. Keynesian theory is also applied only to a special case, but it is a relatively stable "equilibrium" inside the corridor made by monetarism or less workable of it, instability threatens to be.

If this view is accepted it is portent to realize what the period: that the general approach to macroeconomics is rather to what it was at, say, the end of the 1940s. Keynesian theory is also applied only to a special case, but it is a relatively stable "equilibrium" inside the corridor made by monetarism or less workable of it, instability threatens to be.

David Collard is professor of economics at Bath University.

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Edited by ANTHONY S. COURAKIS

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What goes up

Persistent Inflation: historical and policy essays
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Perspectives on Inflation: models and policies
edited by David Heathfield
Longman, £8.95 and £3.95
ISBN 0 582 44189 7 and 44190 0

The Macroeconomic Mix to Stop Stagflation

by J. O. N. Perkins

Macmillan, £8.95

ISBN 0 333 25396 5

As long as inflation continues in full spate it is natural that the flow of books on the subject should go on. The present batch differ significantly from one another, in conception if not in doctrine; Cagan's volume is an exception. It is the last 10 years and already published, mostly by the American Enterprise Institute. Heathfield has edited a volume of eight more technical and dispassionate essays; five of the authors are or have been associated with the University of Southampton. Perkins's title promises us a cure, although his text describes a palliative at best.

All three books endorse, with differing degrees of enthusiasm, a crucial role for money (Victoria Chick in *Perspectives on Inflation* is the most cautious). Despite this unity neither collection of essays addresses the issues raised by Perkins's prescription: that taxes contributing directly to prices and costs (VAT, National Insurance surcharge) should be cut, revenue being replaced by additional long-term borrowing designed to maintain the level of aggregate demand.

I believe that, at least in the United Kingdom now, there may be something to be said for this proposal—however Perkins reserves the most arguments for a brief rebuttal of objections. His principal argument is, I believe, invalid. The problem is that if we issue more debt now we have to raise more taxes in the future. Perkins pours scorn on the view that this means that the policy will leave aggregate demand unchanged. However, he seems simply to ignore the inflationary effects of the extra taxes needed later to service the debt.

It may be possible to postpone inflation in this way but not to stop it. Perkins may reply that his policy involves a rise in activity so that unchanged tax rates will yield more revenue. However a cure for stagflation that does not work without inflation at full employment is of very limited use.

His good argument involves saying that monetary and fiscal authorities in inflationary economies adopt excessively deflationary fiscal policies because they are misled by the high nominal deficits associated with high nominal interest payments on the outstanding debt. For the United Kingdom Taylor and Throldgood showed in a recent Bank of England discussion paper the scale of the appropriate inflation adjustment over £5,000 in each of the past five years.

Cagan's prescription is more conventional deflation: he discusses the relative merits of gradual versus rapid deflation. "If the Phillips curve is convex each successive increase in unemployment is accompanied by a smaller reduction in the inflation rate" (page 223), in which case the total unemployment cost of eliminating a given initial level of inflation is reduced if the deflation is more gradual. In spite of being sceptical about the convexity property of the curve, in the relevant region Cagan recognizes that in the absence of fully rational expectations the total unemployment cost of defeating inflation is reduced if the authorities first reach people's expectations by a gradual approach to the target. Cagan emphasizes the importance of communicating clear intentions of priorities and determination. However, the analytical contribution of this book lies less in its treatment of Phillips curve

The fifth edition of *The Economics of the Developing Countries* by Professor H. Myint has just been published by Hutchinson Education at £3.50. The author has added a chapter on the new approach to the underdeveloped countries and updated the text where necessary.

BOOKS**Through the roof**

The Property Boom: the effects of building society behaviour on house prices
by David G. Mayes
Mortgage Robertson, £8.95
ISBN 0 85520 296 3

The period since the war has seen Britain change from a society in which the majority rented their homes to one in which the majority owned their own homes. This process has been encouraged by the steady increase in house prices which have risen in real terms by 2 to 3 per cent per annum. Before 1970 the change was generally orderly—the maximum increase in prices in any year was only 10 per cent (in 1961). Since 1970 the housing market has been disrupted by rapid changes in house prices. In the first boom house prices rose by 123 per cent in money terms between 1971 and 1973, a real increase of nearly 100 per cent, and fell in real terms by 10 per cent and 12 per cent in 1974 and 1975 when the rate of inflation was rising most rapidly. Since then we have seen an equally rapid though more short-lived boom, followed by an equally sudden halt to the increase in house prices in 1979.

At the time of the first of these booms it was widely argued that it was the behaviour of the building societies which was destabilizing the system and causing the rapid increase in prices. It is this argument which is Mayes's primary interest. In this book he constructs an economic model of the British housing market and uses it to try to establish the extent of the building societies' responsibility.

In fact it would appear from his findings that this boom was not primarily attributable to the activities of the building societies, their behaviour in that period nor their substantially different from their behaviour in preceding years. Moreover, although the rate of interest which they charged was probably somewhat lower in 1971 and 1972 than might have been expected, and the amount advanced somewhat higher, by 1973, the mortgage interest rate was higher and advances lower than might have been expected, so that at the time the building societies' behaviour was actually damping down the continuing rise in prices.

Unfortunately Mayes does not go

on to investigate, even within the context of his own model, other determinants of the rise in prices. If the building societies merely responded to events, what then did cause the boom? The material provided in his tables and figures supports one possible explanation. Between 1970 and 1972 the flow of funds into the societies doubled. This appears to have been due to the fact that in that period the interest which could be obtained by depositing money with banks or local authorities fell considerably below the interest obtained by deposits with building societies. Apparently much of the increase in the money supply after the publication of *Competition and Credit Control* in 1971 flowed into the societies and out again as advances.

Other factors which may have been important are not incorporated into Mayes's model. It does not allow for changes in the number of households, and this may be important, since the baby boom of the late forties may have been a factor in the housing boom of the early seventies. Nor does his model allow for the impact of changes in the selected rate of inflation on house prices. If inflation is expected to increase it is rational to attempt to sell, say, equities and purchase an asset such as housing so that the increase in price is free from capital gains tax. Thus to the extent that people anticipated the increase in inflation in the middle seventies they were correct to try to purchase housing in the early seventies, even if this meant that house prices were driven up.

What of the more recent boom in house prices? The causes of the rapid increase in house prices in 1978 and 1979 are still unclear, but the causes of the sudden cessation of that increase are obvious. A number of factors have raised the real cost of home ownership. The reduction in the standard and higher levels of income tax had some effect in the middle of 1979. More important was the increase in the mortgage interest rate from 11.5 per cent to 15 per cent at the end of 1979. Mayes's model suggests that this increase alone should lead to a fall in house prices of at least 16 per cent.

Alan W. Evans

Dr Evans is reader in environmental economics at Reading University.

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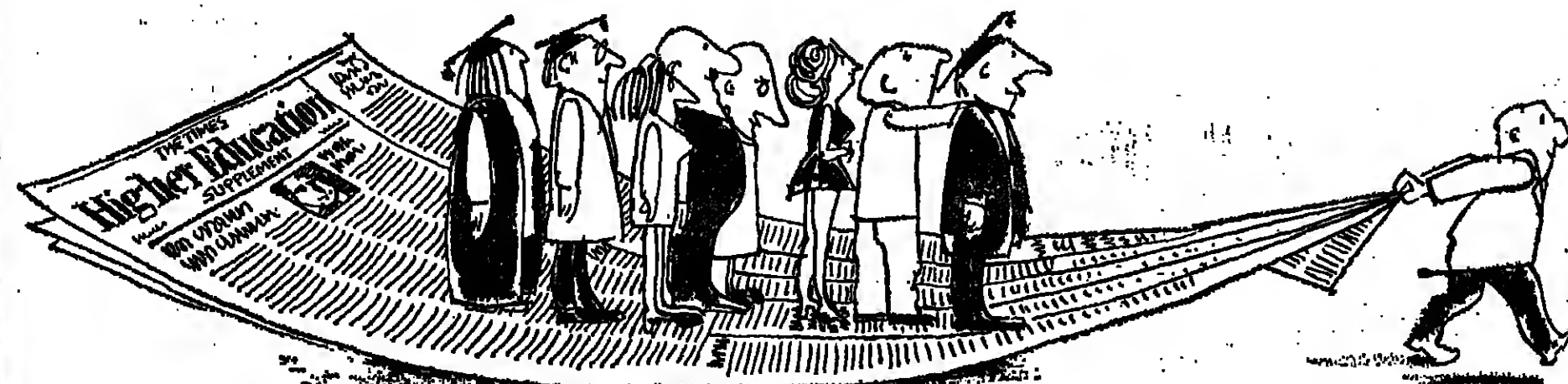
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Union view

Totting up the cost of open books

In 1978, as a result of promptings by the Public Accounts Committee, the last Government began an examination of the funding of Britain's 800 student unions. The committee's concern was two-fold. First, that the £13m spent on these bodies might be excessive and, more importantly, that existing methods of holding the spenders of these public funds accountable were inadequate. There have since been proposals, counter-proposals, round-table discussions, consultations and a new government.

The first point the National Union of Students was able to clarify was the true cost to the public purse of student unions. As well as providing many facilities like recreation, a forum for debate, the opportunity for experiencing self-organization, long regarded as an integral part of higher education, the student unions had taken on many tasks previously the responsibility of the institution, for example, catering and welfare services.

At no stage in the debate has the right of a student union to carry on these tasks been seriously challenged and so we quickly pass to the crux of the argument—public accountability.

The parties to the discussions, NUS, DES, CUPC, local authorities, are all agreed that anyone spending public funds must be held accountable. The problem has been in devising a system which would work and afford protection to the legitimate interests of those concerned. The local authorities are unhappy

with the present system which sees one authority or university set a fee level and then pass the bill on to another authority for payment. They want the people who pay to be the people who decide how much.

The vice-chancellors wish to protect the essentially independent nature of their institutions and wish to retain the right to negotiate freely with their unions. At the same time, they are acutely aware of the potential for conflict and would like a system which minimized this.

NUS wishes to protect the independence and income of their member unions and at the same time help those in further education colleges who do badly under the present system.



The DES want to keep the Public Accounts Committee happy. In an attempt to balance all these various interests, the DES has come up with a new idea based on unions receiving their income as part of the recurrent income of the institution. In short, student unions would negotiate with their governing bodies who would agree a fee. In the public sector, this would then have to be endorsed by the maintaining local authority. The substantive variation on the present system is that the cost is not then passed on to the local authority paying the grant of individual students. The Government's rationale is that whoever sets the fee will think very carefully if they must also pay.

The proposal obviously meets the needs of the local authorities but leaves the vice-chancellors and NUS more than a little worried. From

NUS's standpoint our member colleges are left in a particularly weak position, largely because they are currently denied access to the key levels of decision-making.

In the past, the general experience has been that student union funding has been considered in isolation because it had no real effect on the finances of the college. That will change completely under the DES proposals. Student unions like academic departments, members of staff, the catering department will have a very keen interest in the financing of the college. We have argued that this is an interest which must be recognized. Unless colleges are more open about their decision-making they must expect students to be suspicious of their decisions.

Dr Rhodys Boyson, under secretary for education, has stated on a number of occasions that this is not a cost cutting exercise and that he would wish to maintain real income at least in the first year. The minister will not be surprised if his words are greeted with some caution when one examines his Government's record on public spending.

NUS at least will be looking for something a bit more positive and long term than a promise which only covers the first year. In the universities, the vice-chancellors must also be worried about levels of funding. Many services provided by unions will fall to the university if income is cut drastically.

There will be some who question the wisdom of spending any money on student unions, just as there are those who will question other aspects of public expenditure. We believe that there is a valuable role for student unions and our aim is to protect their ability to fulfill that role.

Alan Christie

The author is deputy president of the National Union of Students.

Money saving tips for the pennypinchers

All the indications are that universities, polytechnics and research institutes in Britain are moving into a period of increasing financial stringency. Serious measures have been discussed, including the closing down of institutes, diminishing the number of universities, making staff redundant, advertising abroad for foreign students. I would like to suggest a number of practical ways to save thousands of pounds per year, before we consider measures more potentially damaging academically.

Every department in which I have worked, and many which I have visited, have had much equipment which has been underused or not used at all. This is frequently because the equipment was bought in a period of expansion when money was available, and it was considered that such items were necessary accoutrements for that particular kind of department. Alternatively, the person who suffered a specialized item had been too busy to use it, or had since moved.

It should be relatively easy for departments to draw up lists of equipment which they would (a) be prepared to lend, (b) be prepared to sell to other departments, institutes, universities, polytechnics or schools. There should be much greater encouragement of inter-faculty borrowing or use of expensive equipment. Anyone ordering a new item, costing, say, more than £200 should have to demonstrate by consulting such a list that it cannot be borrowed from another department, or used in it. This might sometimes require a change of attitude by heads of departments and by chief technicians.

The principle should be stringently applied to that 'hopper' item, an academic's car, be it a motor or a new piece of equipment.

should be justified not only by virtue of its proposed application, but also by demonstrating unequivocally the unavailability of items already available.

This implies that departmental committees would have a strong influence on all orders for expensive equipment. Furthermore, regulations requiring written justification for expensive equipment should be more rigorously enforced. I would suggest that the time is ripe for the Government or a private firm to set up a national agency for selling second-hand major equipment. It would not be necessary for the agency to hold the equipment, only in store technical details about it, including its sale price, probably on a computer.

With the exception of very specialized courses, a minimum number of, say, ten students should have been enrolled for any course before it is started. Similarly, the number of final year options and projects offered in the students should be diminished so that, say, at least five students should be involved in each; the number of lectures in industrial placements for training during courses, especially abroad, should be

limited to save travel expenses of the academic staff to visit the students. Much less use could be made of outside lecturers in many courses, particularly when local staff could be available.

All travel, even of senior academic staff and examiners, should be paid at the second class rate. Scrap paper should be collected and sold to borough councils. This would require segregation of paper and other refuse, which would not be particularly difficult. It could be a considerable source of revenue. Greater efforts need to be made to prevent stealing of library books and journals, which is a constant source of loss.

In many large firms, financial incentives are given to staff, when they suggest ideas to increase production or save costs. There is no reason why students and staff in institutes of learning should not be encouraged thus to put forward their own practical suggestions to save money.

Harold Hillman

The writer is the Reader in Philosophy at the University of Surrey.

Don's diary

Monday

About my only claim to academic distinction lies in my ability to secure working conditions with superb views. Teaching in a school and on an adult education programme in the eastern part of Jamaica in the early '70s, my classroom looked out through waving coconut palms and banana trees over the Caribbean Sea.

My room at the top of the arts building of the University of New South Wales in Sydney in my next job had a panoramic view of Randwick racecourse, one of the biggest in Australia.

Now, as a part-time lecturer for one year at Parramatta Polytechnic, my room has a bird's eye view of the town and the sea from within the masts of HMS Victory clearly visible. Even better, the building overlooks the United Services cricket ground, one of the finest in the country. Little did I think when I paid my half-term fee to enter the ground as a small boy that one day I would be able to see every ball bowled from my office.

Tuesday

Taking over another person's office for a year is almost like living in somebody else's home, an endless succession of small discoveries where the paper clips are, how to open the filing cabinet without dislocating your wrist and discovering the intricacies of the phone system. A room tells you a lot about a person's character and, sometimes, wonder what the lecturer whom I am replacing for a year is like. One thing about him which commands my respect, even though I have never met him, is that he is blind. When I am teaching a class, I am often told that I have much more difficult to must be in work without sight. Organization is obviously one of the keys to the room-owner's success and I am filled with admiration by the piles of Braille notes and the signs of carefully marshalled routine. Problems exist in areas which the normal lecturer takes for granted, for example, marking essays when a rota of helpers reads them to him and mark his comments. A large queue in the canteen not to move anything out of place, even by inches, suggests yet another difficulty which has to be overcome.

Wednesday

Another large consignment of bumph from the Open University arrives through the mail. Although I have only been a tutor-counsellor since November mid, have only seen my students once so far at an induction meeting, hold a shelf in my study is already growing under the weight of Open University material. The Open University is well aware of the problem, judging from written comments that I have seen and the people I meet, but there seems to be no way round the morass. I am already into Open University largon. Failure to receive anything is due to "a bottleneck" but today's mail contains an even better phrase. The reason why my students have not received a letter on summer school arrangements is, another tutor informs me, because we are "a casualty of the resource crisis".

In fact, the OU still has a pioneering spirit that I find refreshing, compared with the gloom in many other British academic institutions, weighed down as they are with financial problems. Certainly, when working abroad, the OU was one British educational venture that received almost continual praise.

Thursday

The lot of a former educational correspondent is a strange one. Having covered Australia for the THES and The TES for nearly four years, my name was on most educational groups' mailing lists. Despite a nice letter and repeated phone calls before leaving, I still continue to receive news releases from many of them. It's like Time magazine. Once your name is on their files, even though your subscription has lapsed, they never let up.

I remember too my only "scrap". It was the first ever interview given to the press by Margaret Guilfoyle, the caretaker minister of education after the Labour government of Gough Whitlam was dismissed in controversial circumstances in November 1975. Australia was front page news for a while but my article got lost somewhere between Sydney and New Printing House Square. By the time it was found, Margaret Guilfoyle had changed ministries in a surprise move and the article was useless.

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Friday

Two events in recent days have spurred me on to do more writing. The first is the chilling news that the death toll in Northern Ireland has reached 2,000. I resolve, therefore, to finish the revision and extension of my PhD on British attitudes towards the province since 1968. I feel sure that the growth of anti-Irish feeling in Britain (witness anti-Irish jokes and cartoons) is a major block to British comprehension of the crisis.

The second comes out of a cotillion that I held on the first World War during which a small group of students stated that they had never met anybody who fought in 1914-18. Suddenly I realized that most of the survivors of that conflict are in their early eighties at the very least. How I admire the few historians, such as Martin Middlebrook, who have done so much to record the experiences of these veterans. I think with glee of my own lack of writing in this regard—one small interview with a survivor of the Battle of the Somme.

Saturday

One of the biggest mysteries of my life is the number of books that I manage to collect. It's not just that they are my tools of trade or that I am a compulsive book collector, but how do I manage to amass books on subjects that I have an interest in whatsoever?

The biggest surprise so far has been a state-grey book, entitled *Social and Economic Development of Bulgaria 1944-1964*, published by the Institute of Economics, the Bulgarian Academy of Science. The book opens with the resounding statement: "After the triumph of the socialist revolution in 1944, the Bulgarian people have been boldly and confidently marching along the road to socialism". I have never been to Bulgaria and have something of an ignorant and chauvinistic prejudice against the place, although I have many of the countries surrounding it. How did I obtain such an obvious bit of propaganda, complete with glowing footnotes to speeches by N. S. Khrushchev (since deleted, I feel sure, from subsequent editions)?

Sunday

While washing up, I gaze nervously at the green of our local village school. At the moment, it has something like 40 pupils on its books but I wonder how long it will continue. So many small schools in Wiltshire and other counties have closed that it must be somewhere on a chopping list.

The date on the wall—1833—indicates another problem: so many of these schools need urgent repair and alterations. The crux of the matter seems to be the continuing loss of village life. I very much hope that some new buildings will appear but more in keeping with the architecture and atmosphere of the village and I believe an influx of young people must only benefit the community. Change and adaptation, while preserving what is worthwhile in the past, seem to be a desiderata at any rate, a very worthwhile goal.

John Kirkaldy

The writer is a lecturer in Portsmouth Polytechnic and a tutor-counsellor with the Open University.

